

**ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP**  
INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND REGIONAL GROWTH  
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**Memorandum**

**To: ENRP Co-Chairs Sean O'Connor & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Government Affairs Subcommittee Chair Peter McMahon**

**Re: April & May 2003 meetings**

**Date: June 6, 2003**

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The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Government Affairs Subcommittee met April 14 and May 5, 2003 at Christino's at the Amherst Marriott. Present for the April meeting were subcommittee members McMahon, Ellis, Weinstein, and Sheffer. Present for the May meeting were subcommittee members McMahon, Ellis, and Meal.

Local Governments Forum

As a follow-up to last year's local government collaborative opportunities brochure, the subcommittee decided that a forum should be held to inform local governments of major regional initiatives that are currently underway, illustrate how they fit together into an "infrastructure for economic development," and offer opportunities for the municipalities to become involved in these initiatives. As a bonus, they would be formally introduced to the ENRP as an organization. The event is co-sponsored by ENRP and the two local governments associations.

Topics for presentation at the meeting are electronic permitting, the Framework for Regional Growth, the Regional Economic Development Strategy / Economic Development Working Group, the Regional Cultural Tourism Initiative, and Shared Risk Management / MUNIIX (later deleted, see below). In addition, we'll be gauging interest in future seminars on a wide range of topics through a survey being handed to the participants. Topics for the survey are being collected from all ENRP subcommittees.

Authorization for the forum was given via unanimous e-mail vote earlier this month, and the forum is set for Wednesday, June 11, 2003 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the "G" Building Auditorium at Erie Community College's North Campus.

### Electronic Permitting

Subcommittee Member Sheffer gave an update on electronic permitting. The pilot is underway, and will provide electronic permitting for the Town of Lockport, Wales, the Village of Hamburg, Amherst, and the City of Tonawanda. Ciminelli and Ellicott Development have agreed to test the site, and the City of Buffalo is also participating, although they will not be part of the pilot as they could overwhelm it.

As part of Erie County's contract, following the pilot the Institute will offer municipalities throughout Erie County the opportunity to become involved in the system. This presentation will also be given to Niagara County municipalities. Erie County has committee funds for EC municipalities who wish to join; funding responsibility is pending in Niagara County.

### MUNIIX

"MUNIIX" – Municipal Inter-Insurance Exchange – was being spearheaded by then-Niagara County Director of Risk Management Wayne Salen. Erie and Niagara Counties had committed to examining the idea. This project has been put on hold, as Mr. Salen is no longer employed by Niagara County. We are currently looking for a new point person for this effort.

### Other Topics

Other topics discussed included I Love NY's One Summer Long Sensation designation, and recommendation four from the Economic Development Working Group's "One Stop Shop" report.